

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RICHARD (RICK) PARSLEY

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the late Richard Parsley. Rick passed away peacefully on July 25, 2011.

Rick was born in Atwater, California on November 30, 1949. He graduated from Atwater High School. He joined the Navy at the age of 17 and served his country with a tour of duty in Vietnam where he was awarded a bronze star.

Rick began a career as a local merchant but learned that business was not where his passion lied and he was a person who refused to live life without passion. In his late 30's, he set out to become an educator, where he found his calling. Rick spent many years as a dedicated teacher, principal and administrator.

Many people have said how Rick profoundly influenced their lives and they considered him to be their mentor. His pure passion for life inspired others to live the same way. Rick always encouraged others to strive for a better life. He lived a life of passion for the things he loved including spending time on the water in his boat with his friends and family.

Though Rick's life ended much too soon, it was a life complete in so many ways. He is survived by the love of his life, Mae Pierini; his daughter Lori and Lori's husband Jason; his son Jeff and Jeff's wife Jen; stepsons Santi and Michael; Michael's wife Azeb; stepdaughter Shelli and Shelli's husband Jason; his seven grandchildren: Maren, Madison, Santi, Gianni, Hanna, Maya, Lucca; and so many who called him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Richard Parsley is small compared to the contributions and impact he had on the lives of so many. He was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding human being.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FOUNDING OF THE BALTIC  
AMERICAN FREEDOM LEAGUE

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Baltic American Freedom League, an important national Baltic American organization. The Baltic American Freedom League (BAFL) was founded in February 1981 by Baltic American political activists in southern California to raise American consciousness about Baltic issues and to carry out specific and concrete goals and projects toward helping achieve

freedom for the Soviet occupied Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

In 1982, BAFL initiated a Congressional resolution asking President W. Reagan to designate June 14, 1982 as Baltic Freedom Day—reiterating U.S. non-recognition of the forcible and illegal incorporation of the Baltic Republics into the U.S.S.R. This Proclamation continued each year until the Baltic countries regained their independence in 1991.

Due to the combined efforts of BAFL, other Baltic organizations, and the Senate and House Baltic Caucuses, the Senate passed SCR 35 on May 19, 2005, and the House of Representatives unanimously adopted H.R. 128 on July 22, 2005; historic resolutions stating that “. . . it is the sense of Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation should issue a clear and unambiguous statement of admission and condemnation of the illegal occupation and annexation by the Soviet Union from 1940 to 1991 of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the consequences of which will be significant increase in good will among the affected people”.

In February 1997, at the request of BAFL, a Baltic Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives was organized by me and my colleague, Congressman KUCINICH of Ohio. The Caucus currently has 55 House Members and has played and continues to play an important role in supporting Baltic issues.

Since November 17, 2008, the citizens of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have been able to travel to the U.S. without obtaining visas, thanks to BAFL and other Baltic organizations, and all those in Congress whose dedication and persistent work overcame strong opposition, and persuaded the U.S. to expand its Visa Waiver Program to include the Baltic countries.

I want to congratulate the Baltic American Freedom League and all its members, past and present, on this 30th anniversary celebration, and to join with other Members of this House in wishing them continued success for another 30 years and beyond.

H.R. 2671 CORRECTION OF  
ORIGINAL COSPONSORS

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, due to a clerical error, Representatives DAVID DRIER, MICHAEL BURGESS, and DENNIS KUCINICH were omitted from being Original Cosponsors of H.R. 2671, the CAL Undiagnosed Diseases Research and Collaboration Network Act of 2011, which was introduced on July 27, 2011. I would like to apologize for this clerical error and thank my colleagues for their support on this important piece of legislation. Additionally, I would like to extend Representative DRIER a special thank you for his support and role in developing this legislation.

CAPTAIN THOMAS HARPER HONORED WITH FRENCH CROSS OF MILITARY VALOR

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ocala's own Army National Guard Captain Thomas Harper of the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Captain Harper and the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces unit successfully provided security assistance for the French Foreign Legion in the Uzbeen Valley of Afghanistan.

He was among those soldiers separated from their unit by a mortar blast causing shrapnel to injure four of the five American soldiers and exposed to enemy fire.

Despite their injuries, Captain Harper and his comrades moved the severely injured to safety and repelled the attack for more than an hour until air support and medic helicopters arrived.

Captain Harper was among five National Guards and one active duty Special Forces soldiers honored with the French Croix de la Valeur Militaire (French Cross of Military Valor), an honor rarely bestowed on any soldier, especially those who are not French.

I join his family, Dr. Wayne Harper, Debbie Harper and sisters Chrissy and Lauren in sharing great pride in the accomplishments of this great American. For their bravery, I rise today Mr. Speaker to honor Captain Thomas Harper and his comrades for their service, and for the unwavering dedication shown to their country.

RICK CABLES TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rick Cables for both his established career with the United States Forest Service, and for being named director of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.

Mr. Cables is a native Coloradan, and he grew up in Pueblo. In the early 1970s, Mr. Cables left Pueblo to attend Northern Arizona University, and in 1976 he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry, leading him to his first job in Arizona's Kaibab National Forest as a forestry technician.

Mr. Cables' work ethic led him throughout Arizona and New Mexico before he was promoted to be district ranger of Arizona's Apache-Sitgraves National Forest. As the district ranger, he oversaw the management of the campgrounds and trails, protected the local vegetation and wildlife, and served as the first point of contact for the forest service. Fourteen years later, Mr. Cables moved to Juneau, Alaska, to be the regional forester for

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